

RADIO ENGINEER IS ELECTRICUTED

1942

Contacts Power Line At
Local Station

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Willie L. Watson, 34, of 908 Bellaire-av, electrical engineer for Evansville-on-the-Air, Inc., was electricuted about 1 a. m. Wednesday while repairing portable equipment at the transmission station. Highway 62 near the Colonial Club.

Five hundred volts went through his body when it came in contact with a high voltage line while he worked on a transmitter used for rebroadcasting programs from points outside the studios.

Arthur Kappes, electrical engineer on duty at the time, started artificial respiration immediately and was aided by his mother who arrived shortly after the accident occurred. They have living quarters at the transmission station.

Tuesday night the special mobile transmitter had been giving trouble during the Evansville College-Valparaiso University basketball game broadcast from the Armory.

Watson took it out of the truck

IS ELECTRICUTED



W. L. Watson (above), 908 Bellaire-av, electrician for Evansville on the Air, Inc., who was electricuted early Wednesday while repairing equipment at the transmission station off Highway 62 near the Colonial Club.

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and into the transmission station to repair and test it.

By mistake, he picked up the 500-volt power line, a feed-in wire plugged into a receptacle, radio station officials said.

Artificial Respiration

Kappes jerked the plug out of the receptacle before starting artificial respiration.

Fay Gehres, chief electrical engineer, who arrived 30 minutes after the accident, and Kappes, worked in relays for two and a half hours to revive Mr. Watson.

Kappes also notified the police radio department which called state police, the sheriff's office and Coroner Folz. A detail was sent out from the city police department.

From Galatia, Ill.

Mr. Watson had been working for the radio stations since April, coming here from Galatia, Ill., where he formerly operated a radio service and was a radio and electrical dealer.

Surviving are: the wife, Grace; a daughter, Yvonne, 5; a son, Dale, 7; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Watson, living in Galatia; sister, Mrs. Pearl Williams and brothers, Otis, Homer and Floyd.

The body was taken to Ziemer's Funeral Home.

The body will be taken Wednesday night to Galatia for funeral and burial.